



Dear candidate for Congress,

Though Election Day is more than six months away, it's not too early to set the tone for the kind of campaign you (and your opponents) will wage this fall.

You can have the kind of contest that has become all too common, and all too disheartening to the American public: one in which outside organizations invest millions of dollars provided by hidden donors in negative and often misleading TV ads.

Or you can try something different: a campaign you and your opponent will be proud of – no matter who wins – and that will give voters an honest picture of you and your approaches to the critical issues facing voters in your state/district and the country.

Our organizations, representing thousands of citizens in your state plus hundreds of thousands more across the country, are writing to ask you to take the latter approach. Start with a goodwill gesture to the voters by taking the [People's Pledge](#).

Our proposal is modeled after the People's Pledge negotiated by Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren in [the 2012 Massachusetts U.S. Senate race](#). It calls on candidates to put their campaign treasuries behind a program to limit outside advertisements on their behalf.

Our two organizations are writing to all candidates running for office in your district/state, urging them to take the "[People's Pledge](#)." We're conducting similar outreach across the country.

By taking the People's Pledge, you will be able to focus on substantive issues, not vicious, negative TV ad campaigns that might be seen as distorting your positions, and will leave you beholden to a cadre of secret six- and seven-figure donors and special interests. Voters deserve better than that, and you deserve better than that.

By adopting the People's Pledge in your race, you'll make a major difference in the quality of the campaign, provide a service to all voters and be a model for the rest of the nation.

For more information about the People's Pledge, please visit [www.peoplespledge2014.org](http://www.peoplespledge2014.org) are happy to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

To respond to this request, please contact Aquene Freechild at [peoplespledge2014@citizen.org](mailto:peoplespledge2014@citizen.org) or Aaron Scherb at [ascherb@commoncause.org](mailto:ascherb@commoncause.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Robert Weissman  
President  
Public Citizen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miles". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Miles Rapoport  
President  
Common Cause